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us. Whether he satisfactorily makes out his case, his readers must judge for themselves. He certainly must be credited with great candor, breadth of view, ability to see both the strength and weakness of opposing arguments, and clearness in statement, contrasting very favorably in this regard with the writings of recent German thinkers upon these subjects. Seven lectures constitute the course, but each of these is enriched by a body of valuable notes which carry out into greater detail the exegetical or philosophical hints of the text. We cannot observe a point which has been untouched in the course of the argument. The principal Messianic passages and the more subordinate ones are taken up in turn, and subjected to a careful examination. One whole lecture is given up to a study of the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah. The book may be safely and warmly commended.

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### PROPHECY: ITS NATURE AND EVIDENCE.\*

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This book is one among the many scholarly arguments put forward in defence of the authority of Scripture by the practical English mind which seems to delight to run in the groove first marked out by Butler and Paley. "Evidences of Christianity" are numerous and weighty enough to convince the world if it were willing to be convinced. This volume deals with but one line of argument, which is presented in a thoroughly logical way. The gist of it is this. No small part of the Scriptures consists of prophecy. This prophecy is not merely lofty thought, didactic or spiritual, which the prophet pressed upon the men of his time. It contains predictions of such a minute, circumstantial and far-reaching character that the conclusion is well nigh irresistible that the writings which contain these predictions are divinely given and authoritative. A long chapter of the small volume is given to tracing the development of Messianic Prophecy from the origin of man to the coming of Christ. The whole argument is, of course, an old and familiar one, but it will be found stated here with a freshness, an adaptation to the present state of biblical scholarship, and a freedom from doctrinal prepossessions, which make it a useful addition to the literature of the subject. The title of the book is somewhat misleading. The Nature of Prophecy is but briefly considered, and the reader must not expect much beyond what has been briefly summarized in the preceding lines. The titles of the chapters are as follows: I., Introduction; II., The Prophet's Office and Mission; III., The Prophet's Training and Inspiration; IV., The Prophetic Word; V., Prophecy: its Fulfillment; VI., The Messiah the Soul of Prophecy; VII., The Word and the Facts; VIII., The Prophetic Spirit in the Christian Dispensation.

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### HEBREW TRADITION.†

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This book is evidently a series of sermons upon the first chapters of Genesis, such as might have been delivered to a cultured Unitarian congregation in the vicinity of Boston. So far as affording any real help in the solution of the difficulties which are met in the study of these chapters it is of no service. With an airy

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\* *Prophecy: Its Nature and Evidence.* By the Rev. R. A. REDFORD, M. A., LL.B. London: *The Religious Tract Society.* New York: *Scribner and Welford* 7½x5. Pp. 301.

† *The Primeval World of Hebrew Tradition.* By FREDERIC HENRY HEDGE. Second edition. Boston; 1872. *Roberts Bros.* 7x4½ in. pp. 283.

assurance born of German rationalism the writer resolves Eden, the fall, the six days, and almost everything else in that most sober and literal of narratives into myth, allegory, and concludes as "the result of sober and reverent criticism" that the narrative of God's meeting and converse with Abraham is a Hebrew Idyl. The mistakes of theologians of the orthodox school figure largely in this book. It may be that to other eyes than the writer's, the baseless assumptions and vagaries of an irreverent criticism stand out quite as clearly. The book may serve its purpose in presenting, in a most fascinating style, theories of what the Hebrew traditions *ought* to teach according to the opinion of an idealistic philosopher. The last chapter, which develops the idea that the great teaching of the Hebrew race to the world was the importance of the inner life, exhibits the author at his best, who in the treatment of historical facts and statements seems to be lacking in the homely virtue of common-sense.

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HEROES OF HEBREW HISTORY.\*

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The perennial beauty and freshness of this series of sketches is our excuse for bringing it to the attention of readers. They are not critical or deeply learned but designedly popular in matter and style. They were written for *Good Words*, and have been since published in book form, of which this volume is a new edition. Ministers who are anxious to obtain a model in homiletic treatment of Old Testament characters would do well to possess themselves of this volume. Bishop Wilberforce always wrote and spoke with great eloquence, but the union of beauty, strength and sweetness in these biographical discourses gives them a peculiar charm. He invests old and well-known scenes and characters with a new interest by the power of sympathy with both their surroundings and their thoughts and feelings.

The first sketch is that of Abraham, and the last deals with Elisha. It is specially instructive to notice how careful and extended knowledge of antiquities and acquaintance with the latest views concerning the subjects of his discourse are so intimately woven into the narrative, and the whole lighted up with a glow of genuine eloquence and spiritual fervor, that the reader is instructed while charmed and elevated and stimulated while carried along unweariedly by the sustained vigor of the style. An abstract of the volume would be impossible.

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➤REVIEW NOTICES.◀

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The *Bibliotheca Sacra*† in its January number contains two articles which come within the scope of our review. Professor Curtiss presents the first of a series of "Sketches of Pentateuch Criticism." Our sympathies are at once interested by the following sentences from his introduction: "Not all can pursue these studies.

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\* *Heroes of Hebrew History*. By the late SAMUEL WILBERFORCE, D. D. New Edition. London, 1879; Doldy, Isbister & Co.; New York: Scribner and Welford. 7x5. Pp. 368.

† *The Bibliotheca Sacra*. Editors: G. F. WRIGHT, JUDSON SMITH, W. G. BALLENTINE. Vol. XLI. Jan. 1884. Oberlin, Ohio: E. J. Goodrich. \$3.00 per year.

1. Sketches of Pentateuch Criticism, by Rev. S. Ives Curtiss, D. D.

4. Proposed Reconstruction of the Pentateuch: Deuteronomy and the Related Codes, by Prof. Edwin C. Bissell, D. D.